

REMARKS

As presently claimed the invention is directed to a laminate prepared by a process the steps of which are

- (i) applying a printed layer of a high temperature-resistant colored ink to a transparent thermoplastic polyurethane layer to produce a printed film, and
- (ii) placing the printed film in a mold of an injection molding machine equipped with a nozzle, the printed layer facing the nozzle, and
- (iii) injecting into the mold a thermoplastic material to form a substrate.

The process is further characterized in the absence of a pre-forming step of the printed film.

By its terms the thus prepared laminate includes no layer separating between the colored ink and the injected thermoplastic material that forms the substrate.

In the prosecution of the parent patent application, the claims faced a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,733,651 to Wank et al. The referenced laminate is considered to be prepared by a process entailing pre-forming of the included printed film (column 12, line 24) and to include in its structure a "cover film" protecting the printed decoration from smearing and abrasion (column 11, lines 65 et seq.) by the application of the support layer.

In its amended form the claim is believed patentable over the cited art.
An early examination on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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